

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
COME-00 AID-05 IO-13 AGRE-00 INT-05 /116 W
-----241629Z 022273 /46

R 241446Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3109
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 15234

ADDIS POUCH DJIBOUTI

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SU FR
SUBJ: NIMEIRI VISIT TO FRANCE

REF: KHARTOUM 1724

1. ACCORDING TO SUDAN DESK OFFICER (DALLANT), QUAI
SHARES REFTEL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE MAY 16-18
NIMEIRI VISIT AS "SUCCESSFUL", PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT
SERVED THE POLITICAL PURPOSE OF GIVING NIMEIRI THE
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OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW HIMSELF ABROAD AND TO RECEIVE THE
APPROBATION OF AN IMPORTANT EUROPEAN COUNTRY FOR HIS
POSICIES. DALLANT TOLD US MAY 23 THAT POLITICAL
DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY
THE HORN AND THE RED SEA, WITH ONLY PASSING ATTENTION
GIVEN TO OTHER QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE ARAB-ISRAELI
CONFLICT ON WHICH FRENCH AND SUDANESE VIEWS ARE

SIMILAR.

2. NIMEIRI CLAIMED TO FEAR AN EARLY ATTACK ON SUDAN BY ETHIOPIA, DALLANT SAID. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ADDIS, WITH STRONG SOVIET BACKING, WAS PREPARING TO GO ALL OUT AGAINST THE ERITREANS IN AN OPERATION THAT WOULD BE A VIRTUAL "GENOCIDE". NIMEIRI THOUGHT THAT SOMALI RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS HAD DETERIORATED AND THAT THE SOMALIS WERE READY TO REORIENT THEIR RELATIONS TOWARDS THE WEST. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET ARMS SUPPLIES WOULD CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE SOMALI POLICY. ON DJIBOUTI, NIMEIRI OFFERED CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF FRENCH EFFORTS TO LAUNCH AN INDEPENDENT STATE, AND PROMISED SUDANESE SUPPORT.

3. NIMEIRI PUT GREAT STRESS ON A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, DALLANT CONTINUED. ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS, LITTLE OF SIGNIFICANCE WAS ACCOMPLISHED BEYOND THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH A MIXED FRANCO-SUDANESE COMMISSION, TO MEET YEARLY AT THE MINISTERIAL OR SUB-MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. A MINING COOPERATION ACCORD WAS ALSO SIGNED. NO FINANCIAL OR ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED AND THE FRENCH MERELY STATED THEIR INTENTION TO PROVIDE EASY PAYMENT TERMS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THEIR POSSIBILITIES. DALLANT CLEARLY FELT THAT UNDER CURRENT FRENCH BUDGETARY STRINGENCIES, NOT MUCH WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR SUDAN;
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SHE INDICATED THAT NO COMMITMENTS BEYOND THOSE MADE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 15234

LAST YEAR ARE CONTEMPLATED FOR THE KANANA SUGAR AND JONGLEI CANAL PROJECTS. THE FRENCH, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL OFFER A BIT MORE CULTURAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS, TRAINING PROGRAMS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

4. IN SUM, DALLANT SAID THAT FRANCO-SUDANESE RELATIONS HAD BEEN "VAGUE". THE VISIT, REALLY THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT, BEGAN THE PROCESS OF PUTTING SUBSTANCE INTO THEM. IN THAT CONTEXT, THE FRENCH WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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PLEASANTLY SURPRISED WITH NIMEIRI'S OPENNESS AND FOUND HIM TO BE A GOOD INTERLOCUTER.

5. COMMENT: FRENCH ATTENTION TO NIMEIRI IS IN LINE WITH POLICY INTENDED TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN (AND ARAB) MODERATES WITHOUT GIVING OFFENSE TO THE RADICALS. IT ALSO FITS IN WITH THE FRENCH INTEREST IN EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH THE MORE IMPORTANT NON-FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REASONS. SUDAN'S POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT IS NOT LOST ON THE FRENCH, AND NIMEIRI'S MODERATION IS SEEN AS AN ELEMENT OF STABILITY IN THE REGION. AS FOR ASSISTANCE, THE SUDANESE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IF THEY ARE COUNTING ON THE FRENCH FOR ANYTHING VERY SUBSTANTIAL.

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